

PATENT

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-15 and 17-20 were pending. Claims 7-13, 15 and 17-20 stand allowed. Claims 3-6 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 2 and 14 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 3, 5, 6 and 14 have been amended, and claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Claims 3-15 and 17-20 remain pending in the subject application.

Allowance of claims 7-13, 15 and 17-20 is noted with thanks.

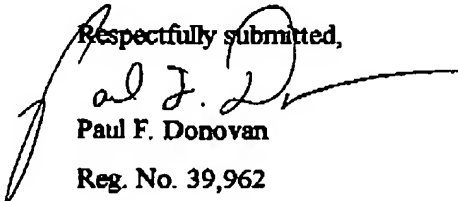
Claims 1, 2 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,719,248 to Breitschwerdt et al. Claims 3-6 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, claims 3, 5 and 6 have been rewritten into independent form to put these claims into condition for allowance. In addition, claim 14 has been amended to recite that the rib of the handle is disposed in the rotational path of the lever arm.

It is noted that the Examiner has indicated that the informal drawings submitted with the application are acceptable. However, formal drawings were submitted and received by the Office on May 27, 2004. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner accept the formal drawings and indicate as such in the Notice of Allowance so the formal drawings will be printed with the issued patent.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein. Reconsideration and allowance of all the remaining pending claims are respectfully requested. In the event that there are any issues that can be expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Illinois Tool Works Inc.
3600 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, Illinois 60026
(847) 657-4075

Respectfully submitted,


Paul F. Donovan

Reg. No. 39,962